

SERMON NOTES

SUNDAY 16.11.25

PREACHER: PS JOSH KING

Our Corporate Offering

BECOMING CHRISTLIKE

BEING [HEART], THINKING [MIND] & **DOING [BODY]**

[A PERSONAL REFLECTION]

Conviction of a Disciple:

A disciple (a student of Christ) learns to bring God a costly, wholehearted offering of worship—motivated by His work and worthiness, not by preference or performance. Together, we are being built into a dwelling (a new temple) where His presence rests.

OVERVIEW

Corporate worship is more than music or style—it's a shared act of surrender. Each time we gather, we lay down individual preferences and remember that we are one body, one temple, one family being formed for God's dwelling. Worship is not about what we receive, but about Who we exalt. And yet, in His mercy, when we give Him what costs us, He meets us and fills the house with His glory.

ACTION

Q1. How can you prepare your heart before gathering, leading yourself into worship rather than waiting to be led?

Q2. What “costly” offering might God be asking of you—time, attention, or surrender of preference?

Q3. What would it look like for our church to come expecting to give rather than to receive?

THOUGHT

SCRIPTURE: Ephesians 2:19–22 | Psalm 103 | Romans 12:1

Our corporate worship starts before the first note on a Sunday is ever played. It begins with a decision of the heart—to enter with open hands, ready to give rather than receive, ready to let go more than grasp.

Every one of us carries preferences into the room: a song we love, a tempo we'd change, a way we wish things were done. None of those are wrong, but when we gather, something far more holy happens. The many become one. What was *my* worship and *your* worship becomes *our* worship—a shared offering that rises like incense before the Lord.

Paul's vision in Ephesians still speaks to us today: "*You are no longer foreigners and strangers... you are members of God's household... built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by His Spirit.*" (Eph 2:19-22) We are not a corporate audience; we are a communal altar. God's Spirit is crafting a temple out of living stones—our voices, our sacrifices, our surrendered wills.

True offerings cost something. Sometimes the cost is comfort, sometimes convenience, sometimes control. Sometimes it's praise lifted through tears or faith sung in the darkest moment of life. But every costly offering carries the same purpose: that God would dwell among His people. We are formed into Christlikeness, not for the sake of ourselves, but so that His nearness might fill the house and His glory rest upon those around us. We become the means by which His grace is enacted in the world.

So when we gather, we come not waiting to receive but ready to give. We come into the house leading our own souls, reminding ourselves of His worth, ready to lift our eyes from the unpolished and the imperfect toward the One who is perfect. And here's the mystery: when we exalt Him to His rightful place, He, in kindness, lifts us too. He strengthens the weary, heals the heart, and renews our spirit.

Worship is the exchange of love between heaven and earth. And when the Church offers itself wholly to God—without pretence, without preference—He makes His home among us.

DISCUSSION

[A GROUP REFLECTION]

- 1) Why is it so easy to make worship about receiving rather than giving?
- 2) What does it mean to you that “we are the altar, not the audience”?
- 3) How can your small group model unity and self-led worship this week?

PRAYER

Lord,

You are worthy of every offering we could bring. Teach us to lay down our preferences and distractions, to come ready to give You praise that costs us something. Form us into one people—Your living temple—where Your presence finds a home.

Amen